THE LOTUS PLANTER.

A Brahmin on a lotus pod Once wrote the holy name of God.

Then planting it, he asked in prayer For some new fruit, unknown and fair.

A slave near by, who bore a load, Fell fainting on the dusty road.

The Brahmin, pitying, straightway ran And lifted up the fallen man.

The deed scarce done, he looked aghast At touching one beneath his easte.

"Behold !" he cried, "I stand unclean:-My hands have clasped the vile and mean !"

God saw the shadow on his face, And wrought a miracle of grace.

The buried seed arose from death, And bloomed and fruited at His breath.

The stalk bore up a leaf of green, Whereon these mystic words were seen:-

FIRST COURT MEN ALL OF EQUAL CASTE: THEN COUNT THYSHLY THE LEAST AND LAST.

The Brahmin, with bewildered brain,

Beheld the will of God writ plain! Transfigured in a sudden light,

The slave stood sacred in his sight. Thenceforth within the Brahmin's mind

Abode good-will for all mankind. ITALIAN ACADEMIES AND UNIVER-

SITIES. Sicily claims the palm for having the first university in Italy. To Frederick the Second, King of Sicily, is the honor due of introducing the Italian language at his court (A. D. 1218).

His courts at Naples and Palermo were the rendezvous of men of talent and of genius. In 1224 he founded the University of Naples. which soon flourished in that populous city; he opened various schools at Palermo and in other cities of Sicily; he reorganized the Academy of Salerno-an academy of medicine, founded, it is supposed, by the Moors in the

tenth century.

The crusades, which threw open the East to the populations of the West, unfolding to the admiring gaze of the less cultivated Europeans the treasures and the masterpieces of Greek literature and art, a school of jurisprudence established at Bologna, in which Irnerio (or Guarnerio) expounded the Roman law, and Guido Arctino a new system of music, led to the establishment of academies and universities in other cities of Italy. From 1314 to 1334 we find Cino di Pistoja lecturing at the universities of Perugia and Florence, and afterwards at Bologna, where Petrarch and Boccacio were among his pupils. Giovanni Andrea, who, ac-cording to Tiraboschi, is the greatest lawyer that ever lived, was holding a course of lectures. His daughter Novella was so well instructed by her father that at times she used to lecture in his stead. On these occasions she sat behind a small curtain, that the attention of the students might not be distracted by her great beauty. In April, 1361, Boccacio was sent on a special mission to Feirarck by the republic of Fiorence, offering hi a the chancellorship of the university there. The Greek professorship at Florence was in 1363 con erred upon a Greek, on the recommendation of Boccacie. Leonzio Pilato was a man, according to Boccacio's description, of repugnant aspect and horrible features. He wore a long tangled beard, matted, as was his black, uncombed hair; he shunned all society; he possessed, however, a perfect knowledge of the language and literature of the Greeks, and was a pupil of the celebrated Barlaam. For two years he expounded the works of Homer, and translated the "Odyssey" and "Iliad" into Latin. The revival of Greek literature is owing

in a great measure to him and to the encouragement he received from his two patrons, Boccacio and Petrarch. This was the first chair of Greek literature established in Italy. At a great expense, Boccacio collected all the Greek manuscripts he could hear of, and for three years studied assiduously under Pilato. In Petrarch's letters to Boccaclo there are many passages which throw considerable light upon this interesting subject. In a letter, dated 5th March, 1364, he thus describes to Boccacio the departure of Leonzio. "This Leonzio, notwithstanding my entreaties, more obdurate than the rocks he is about to encounter, left me shortly after your departure. Fearing lest, from continual indeparture. Fearing lest, from continual in-tercourse with him, I should catch his ill humor—for the infirmities of the mind are as contagious as those of the body—I let him go, and gave him a Terence to begutie him on the way, a book of which he seemed especially fond, though I cannot explain what this most melancholy Greek has in common with that most lively African; so true it is that there are no dissimilarities that have not some point of resemblance. He embarked, uttering in my presence a thousand imprecations against Italy and the Latin name. He could scarcely have landed in Greece when I received a letter from him more ragged and of greater length than his beard, in which he lauds italy above the skies, utters maledictions against Constantinople, and entreats me to invite him back, in terms of supplication such as Peter

perished on his way back.

Filippo Villani, who wrote the "Lives of Illustrious Florentines," was in 1404 appointed public lecturer on Dante, at Florence.

used when he found he was staking." Leonzio

The student of Italian literature will be as-tonished to find that the Italian language, which, in the fourteenth century, as poets, Dante and Petrarch had cultivated with so much elegance, and which Boccaelo had raised almost to perfection by his tales in prose, should almost to perfection by his tales in prose, should have become suddenly neglected and have fallen almost into decay. For nearly one hundred years after the death of Boccacio, which took place on the 21st of December, 1375, no author of any eminence wrote in the Italian dialect. This is explained by the memorable events which occurred in the first part of the fifteenth century. The great schism in the Church of Rome, which led to the Reformation, the art of printing discovered in Germany, and almost im-Rome, which led to the Reformation, the art of printing discovered in Germany, and almost immediately transplanted to Italy, by increasing the copies of the ancient classics, the fall of the Eastern Empire, and the consequent migration of many Greeks into Italy, gave an impulse to the study of Greek literature. The discoveries of Vasco di Gama, of a new world by Columbus (1494), attracted the attention of the leorned to accentific investigations. Libraries were established for public use, universities founded, professorships instituted,

Sut it must not be supposed that the Italian language was entirely forgotten. If men of learning and science preferred the idiom of the Greeks and Latins, the people learned by heart the verses of the Divine Comedy and the sonnets of Petrarch. Whilst this stately sage or assiduous student pored over Greek and Latin manuscripts, the light hearted gondolier, on the other hand, hummed the dittles of Petrarch as he piled his oar, or sang them under the balcony of his mistress; and the muleteer, as he led his string of mules up the steep ascent of the Acen-mines, pondered over the mysteries of Il Libro; whilst the Hundred Tales elicited many an up-roarious burst of laughter from the gay and thoughtless backelor.

The works of Aristotle, Plato, Homer, Demos-thenes, etc., became universally studied in the schools. Debating clubs, such as exist at Oxford and Cambridge, were established at the univer-sities for the discussion of controversial points. Medals, inscriptions, statues, antiques of every description, were eagerly sought for. The foundation was thus laid for valuable museums and rare collections, private as well as public. Great progress in mathematics and astronomy was followed by the introduction of algebra and

of the mariner's compass, A point which cannot fail to strike the observant reader is the protection which the princes of Italy accorded to men of letters. Popes, emperors, kings, and princes eagerly sought the society of, and awarded the place of honor to, men of genius, whose friendship they courted. The sovereign power of intellect was acknowledged, and the hereditary nobility of rank held out a fraternal hand to the self-created nobility of talent. Amongst the princes of the fourteenth century who distinguished themselves as patrons of literature, Robert, King of Naples, holds a prominent place. His court (from 1869 to 1848) was not only one of the most brilliant, but one of the most learned, of the age; he was the Mecsenss of the four teenth century. Two of the noblest patrons of literature that Italy ever possessed were Pope Nicholas the Fifth and Pope Leo the Tenth. The post of apostolic secretary, looked upon as the highest houer, was repeatedly conferred upon men of letters.

upon men of letters.

The Roman University had fallen into decay.
The primary cause of this was the long sojourn of the popes at Avignon. Innocent the Seventh conceived the idea of re-establishing it. In the midst of the turmoils of the great schism, Innocent issued a bull, in which, after stating that in consequence of the unsettled times the schools of learning at Rome had become neglected, he announced that he had appointed learned professors in all the branches of the sciences and in the Greek tongue. His praiseworthy endeavors did not, however, succeed in reesta-blishing it on a permanent footing. The merit for achieving so desirable an end was reserved to Pope Eugenius the Fourth; but the univerespecially flourished under Nicholas the

The University of Bologna had gradually fallen off in the middle of the fourteenth century, but, towards the close of the century, was resuming its pristine high reputation. At the commencement of the filteenth century it was in high repute, numbering among its professors some of the most learned scholars in Italy, as Guarino, Filelto, and Aurispa. Filelto relates that when he went there to assume his duties as professor, in 1428, such a large number of professors came to welcome him that nothing more honorable can be imagined. The Cardinal of Arles, the legate at Bologna, sent for him imme diately on his arrival, and received him with every mark of distinction. He was allowed a salary of four hundred and fifty scudi, namely, three hundred from the city, and one hundred and fifty from the private purse of the legate, who, moreover, presented him with a purse of fifty scudi and other valuable presents. In the same year a revolutionary movement took place at Bologns, and for the three following years the university was described. In 1450 the university was rebuilt by Cardinal Bessarione. He offered high salaries to the most learned pro-He offered high salaries to the most learned professors, and aroused the emulation for study among the youth of Bologna by prizes and rewards. Nicholas the Fifth conferred various privileges upon the university. Students from all parts of Europe flocked to Bologna. Christian, King of Denmark, visited it in 1474. Desirous that two of his courtiers should receive diplomas—one of law, the other of medicine—the ceremony took place in the church of San Pietro. Elevated seats having been prepared for the professors who had to confer the diplomas, a more elevated seat was raised for the mas, a more elevated seat was raised for the king, who, out of respect for the university, declined taking possession of it, declaring that he should deem it the highest honor to be seated side by side with men whom all the world held in such high esteem.

Whilst under the rule of the lords of Carrara, the University of Padua was in a flourishing condition. Having fallen to Venice, in 1406, condition. Having fallen to Venice, in 1406, the Venetians voted the sum of four thousand ducats for the benefit of the University—a sum which was annually voted in subsequent years. A papal bull, issued by Pope Eugenius the Fourth, in 1439, conferred various privileges upon the University. The Venetian Senate, in its desire to render the University as flourishing as possible, prohibited the establishment of orbits schools in other cities of the recombilion. public schools in other cities of the republic— an impolitic and arbitrary act, which led to the emigration of many of her sons. Venice, the capital, was an exception to the act. The University of Venice was in such high repute that it did not lear a rival. The Senate decreed however, that the degrees of philosophy and medicine only should be conferred at Venice, whilst Padua had the exclusive right of conferring those of divinity and law. At the commencement of the fifteenth cen-

tory, the University of Pisa has greatly fallen The city was annexed to the Florentine republic in 1406. The university had nearly been swamped by that of Florence. The Florence, aware of the advantages which Pisa offered as a place of study, and well understanding that two universities could not co-exist and the same state turned all so near each other in the same state, turned all their attention to Pisa. The University of Florence had gone through many changes; at one time well attended, at another deserted, supported or neglected by turns by the authorities. Guarino and Aurispo gave toologna, and in 1428. Fliello went there from Bologna, and Guarino and Aurispo gave lectures there his lectures seem to bave been well attended. Under Lorenzo di Medici the University of Fiorence reached the height of its prosperity. In 1472, a decree of the Senate transferred the University of Fiorence to Pisa. A papal brief of Pope Sixtus the Fourth, issued in 1475, empowered the Flerentines to levy a tax of five thousand ducats for five years upon the church operty for the benefit of the new university. consequence of the devastations of plague, the university was transferred to Pistoja, but only for one year. The plaque having again made its appearance at Pisa in 1481, the classes migrated to Prato, but after three months the lectures were resumed at Pisa. In 1485, from a similar cause, the classes were again opened for a time at Preto.

Florence and Pisa were not the only cities of Tuscany that boasted universities. The University of Siena stood in high repute in the fit-teenth century. Filelfo, who appears to have been ubiquitous, held a course of lectures there when compelled to leave Florence in 1435. For two years he received the annual salary of two hundred and fifty florins.

The University of Arezzo had fallen into decay, and when the city was annexed to Piorence, the students all left for Pisa.

The University of Pavia stood in good repute in the fitteenth century, both as regards the eminence of the professors and number of students. In the chronicles of Piacenza, mention is made of a Cardinal Branda Castigliane, a Milanese, and bishop of that city, who at the commencement of the fifteenth century founded a college at Pavia, at which twenty-five young commencement of the fifteenth century founded a college at Pavia, at which twenty-five young men of Piacenza, selected by the bishop of that city, were to be educated. The University was most frequented by the Milanese. On the death of Philip Maria Visconti in 1447, Pavia having thrown off allegiance to Milan, the youth of Milan were prohibited studying there. The consequence was, that, though embroiled in war, the Milanese established a university of their own. When Sforza was proclaimed Duke of Milan, the University of Pavia was again freof Milan, the University of Pavia was again frequented by the Milanese. The Storza proved themselves good patrons. Louis, surnamed the Moor, erected a university at Pavia. A poet of that day. Lancino Corte, has recorded in doggered Latin verse the fame of this university. Dake Louis did not, however, neglect the schools of Milan. In addition to the professorship of Greek and elocation, he established professorships of history and of music. Two noble Milanese, Tommaso Grassi, and Tommaso Platti, bequeathed large sums to the schools of their native city (1470).

Universities also existed at Piacenza Nowara.

Universities also existed at Piacenza, Nousea, and Ferrara. The latter was opened with a solution to the latter was opened with a solution to the latter period, Gusrino and Aurispa gave lectures the control of the latter period, Gusrino and Aurispa

was an adherent of the Anti-Pope Benedict the Thirteenth, who issued a buil conferring various privileges upon the new university. These privileges were confirmed by the Emperor Sigismund in 1412, and also by Pope John the Twenty-third. Amadeus the Eighth, first Duke of Savoy, who succeeded Prince Louis, added new privileges to it in 1424. The plague having committed great ravages at Turin, the university was transferred to Chiesi from university was transferred to Chiesi, from whence again, in consequence of the pestilence, to the peathernee, it was removed to Savigliano, from which town, in 1437, it was transferred back to Turin. Additional privileges were granted by Louis, the son of Amadeus, and by Pope Eugenius the Fourth. For a short period the classes were transferred to Moncalieri, but back again to Turin in 1449. Turin in 1459.

The University of Parma was also founded in the fifteenth century (1412). It owes its origin to Nicholas the Third, Marquis of Ferrara, to

whom the city belonged.

As already observed, it was Pope Eugenius the Fourth who carried out the plan of Innocent the Seventh with regard to the University of Rome; but the protection afforded by those Popes to education and literature sinks into comparative insignificance by the side of the noble patronage of Pope Nicholas the Fifth, who, in the eight years of his pontificate, did more for literature in Italy than all his prede-

It is a golden page we read in the history of Italy, when we and that, even in the midst of dire leuds and civil war, a neutral ground was allowed for science, literature, and the fine arts.
The lords of Moniterrat, the Dukes of Urbino,
the lords of Rimini, the Gonzaga, the Este,
vied with royal houses in furthering education
and in their patronage to literature. The Marquis of Mantua ordered a seminary to be built for the education of his children, to which other children were admitted. It was a noble man-sion, with balls and galleries; on the walls were depicted the joyous sports of children, whence it acquired the name of "Casa glocosa." This academy, for it soon rose to such, became frequented by young men from France, from Germany, and from Greece, and achieved a celebrity not inferior to that of the first univer-

las the Fitth is intimately connected, did good service in the establishment of libraries and academies. When only a young clerical stu-dent, Tommaso di Sazzana (alterwards Pope Nicholas the Fifth) was engaged by Cosmo di Medici to assist him in arranging the library of San Marco, the foundation of the celebrated library in Florence, known as the "Biblioteca Marciana." It was Nicholas the Fifth who foundation of the Vatican library. Clement the Foundation of the vatican library. Clement the Filth, when he transferred the Papal See to Avignon, carried along with him the manuscripts which then formed the Pontifical library. There they remained till the year 1417, when Martin the Fifth took them back to Rome. Under the pontificate of Eugenius the Fourth, the library was very scanty. Ambrogio Camoldese, who visited Rome in 1432, published an account of the libraries of the Holy City. Amongst others, he mentions that of Cardinal Orsini, a great portion of which had been sent to Perugia, where the cardina had been appointed legate; another, especially attached to the Church of St. Cecilia, especially mentioning a codex of twenty-nine homilies; another library, which he styles "Biblioteca del Papa," distinguishing it from the "Biblioteca di San Pietro," the latter being probably the property of that church. He says that he found few manuscripts of value in either. Nicholas the Fifth undertook the task of collecting a library on a large scale in Rome. He sent emissaries to all parts to collect Latin and Greek manuscripts, without regard to ex-pense. He engaged the most eminent men to copy them, and paid them handsomely. In this manner he collected five thousand volumes. Death prevented him carrying out his design of throwing open a public library for the use of the Romans. Pope Calixtus the Third, who succeeded Nicholas the Fifth, spent forty thousand scudi in adding manuscripts to the collection commenced by Nicholas. It was not ill the pontificate of Sixtus the Fourth that the

Vatican library was thrown open to the public When exiled from Florence, Cosmo di Medici founded a library in the monastery of St. George, which he left as a donation to Venice, as a mark of his gratitude for the hospitality he received when he sought refuge there. On his reinstalment to power, Cosmo founded the celebrated Laurentian Library at Florence, called after his son Lorenzo, who greatly enriched it. Another Florentine of Isrge fortune, Niccolo Niccoli, devoted his wealth to a similar purpose. He collected a library of eight hundred volumes in the Greek, Latin, and Oriental languages; but his liberality exceeded his means. He died poor in 1436. Cosmo was appointed one of six-teen trustees, and he undertook to pay all Nic-colo's debts, it allowed sole disposal of the library. This was agreed to, and the books were placed for public use in the Biblioteca Marciana. A building was erected by Cosmo, divided into separate compartments or chambers devoted respectively to manuscripts in dif-

ferent languages.
The Academy of Platonic Philosophy, founded by Cosmo, is the first institution that assumed the name of "Academy" in Italy. The academic ans were divided into three categories—the patrons (mecenati), the hearers (ascoltatori), and the novices or disciples, consisting of young aspirants to philosophy. Their great festival was held on the thirteenth of November, the anniversary of the birth and death of Plato. The superintendence of the academy was entrusted to Marsilio Ficino, the son of Cosmo's

private physician. "In a villa overhanging the towers of Florence. on the steep slope of that lofty hill, crowned by the mother city, the ancient Fiesole, in gardens which Tully might have envied, with Ficino, Landino, and Politisa by his side, Lorenzo de-lighted his hours of leisure with the beautiful lighted his hours of leisure with the beautiful visions of Platonic philosophy, for which the summer stillness of an Italian sky appears the most congenial accompaniment. Never could the sympathles of the soul with outer nature be more finely touched; never could more striking suggestions be presented to the philosopher and the statesman. Florence lay beneath them; not with all the magnificance which the them; not with all the magnificence which the later Medici have given her, but, thanks to the picty of former times, presenting almost as varied an outline to the sky. One man, the won-der of Cosmo's sge, Brunelleschi, had crowned the beautiful city with the vast dome of its cathedral-a structure unthought of in Italy before

dral—a structure unthought of in Italy before, and rarely since surpassed. It seemed, amidst the clustering towers of inferior churches, an emblem of the Catholic hierarchy under its supreme head; like Rome itself, imposing, unbroken, unchangeable, radiating to every part of the earth, and directing its couvergent curves to heaven. Bound this were numbered, at unequal heights, the Baptistery, with its gates, as Michael Angelo called them, worthy of paradise; the tall and richly decorated belify of Giotto; the church of the Carmine, with the freeco of Masaccio; those of Santa Maria Novella (in the language of the same great man) as beautiful as a bride; of Santa Croce, second only to the Cathedral of St. Mark; and of San Spirito, another great monument of and of San Spirito, another great monument of the genius of Brunelleschi—the numerous con-vents that rose within the walls of Florence, or were scattered immediately about them. From these the eye might turn to the trophies of a republican government that was rapidly giving way before the citizen prince who now surveyed them; the Palazzo Vecchio, in which the Sig-nory of Florence held their councils, raised by the Guelf aristocracy, the exclusive but not tyrannous faction that long awayed the city; or tyrannous faction that long awayed the city; or the new and unfinished palace which Bru-nelleschi had designed for one of the Pitti family before they iell, as others had already done in the fruitless struggle against the house of Medici; itself destined to become the abode of the victorious race, and to perpetu-ate, by retaining its name, the revolutions that had raised them to power. The prospect, from an elevation of a great city, is one of the most impressive as well as beautiful we ever beheld. Mountains, bright with various hues and clothed

Mountains, bright with various hues and clothed with wood, bounded the horizon, and on most Universities also existed at Piacenza, Nowne, and Ferrara. The latter was opened with about solemnity by the Marquis Albert of Este, in 1391. At a later period, Gusrino and Aurispa gave lectures there.

The University of Maples flourished in the fifteenth century.

The University of Turin was founded in the year 1405, by Louis, Prince of Savoy. He

Under Leo X (son of Lorenzo di Medici), the University of Rome rose to pre-eminence. The most learned professors were induced by liberal offers to hold lectures; young Greeks of pro-mising talent were invited to Rome with a view to apread among the Roman youth a view to apread among the Roman youth a better knowledge of, and love for, Grock classics. The new Pope appointed as his secretaries Pietro Bembo and Jacopo Sadoleto, the two most elegant Latin writers of the day. The Vatican library was entrusted to Beroaldo. There was not a man of note, poet, artist, or orator who did not turn his looks or wend his steps towards the holy city, and every man of merit met with a hospitable welcome from the magnanimous-pontiff. The published letters of Leo X, chiefly with Bembe and Brasmar. with Bembo and Erasmus, are so many patent roofs of his exertions for the promotion of literature. Aided by the genius of Michael Angelo and of Raphael, the magnificent Basilica of the Vatican rose at his command.

Amongst the academies of Italy, the Academia deila Crusea, or Academy of the Sieve, imply-ing that the good grain alone was taken, held a prominent position. A violent attack upon Tasso's "Jerusalem Delivered," in the magazine issued by the academy in 1678, supposed to have been written by Salviati, gave great offense to the poet. This academy counted amongst its members some of the most learned men of

Italy.

In 1587 the University of Genoa was in high repute. It offered Tasso a salary of four hundred gold crowns for a course of lectures on ethics and Aristotle.

Of the ecclesiastical colleges and existing monasteries at Rome at the present day we do not speak. Florence has become the capital of Italy, and within her classical precincts a great portion of the youth of Italy will meet to pursue their studies, without detriment to the universities and academies of the other great cities of Italy.—All the Year Round.

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We have just received a Case of FINE LYONS SILKS,

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All the Favorite Colors in PLAIN CORDED POPLINS,

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LADIES' DRESSES, MADE IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

A large variety of LADIES' WALKING SUITS

At all times ready-made to put on. J. W. PROCTOR & CO.,

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